



# REGIONAL EXPANSION PLAN



Quality early learning helps children succeed in school and beyond. Early Achievers, Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), is a new program that connects families to child care and early learning programs with the help of an easy-to-understand rating system. Developed in collaboration with child care professionals, Early Achievers also offers coaching and resources for child care providers to support each child's learning and development. Research shows this kind of assistance helps providers improve the quality of their programs. And when more young children are ready for school, we all benefit.

Early Achievers is a key strategy in Washington's Statewide Early Learning Plan to improve the quality of child care and early learning programs. The information from Early Achievers will allow the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to make the most of its programs and services—such as preschool, licensing, and professional development—by targeting investments in training and technical assistance.

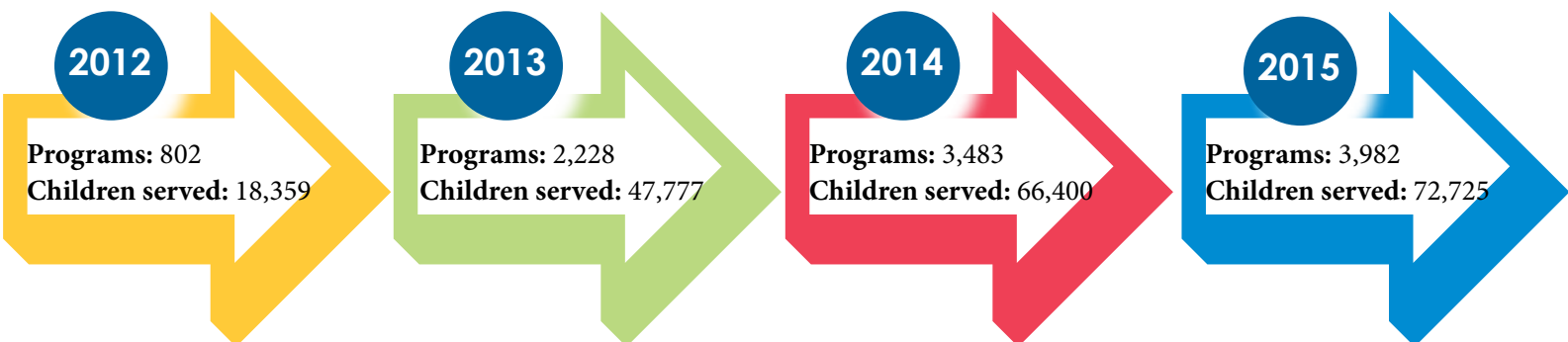
## Early Achievers, Washington's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)

As a result of Washington winning the [Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge](#) grant in December 2011, the Department of Early Learning (DEL) will expand [Early Achievers](#), Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), statewide, beginning July 1, 2012 and will serve the entire state by July 2013.

## Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Regional Expansion Proposal

Washington's successful Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) application proposed an aggressive timeline to reach more than 70,000 children by June 2015.

### Race to the Top Performance Targets



In partnership with the Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the University of Washington, DEL is working to expand the number of providers participating in Early Achievers across the state beginning July 1, 2012.

### Early Achievers Expansion Plan

The Early Achievers expansion plan will allow for sufficient time to build necessary capacity to meet RTT-ELC timelines and will allow us to serve the entire state by July 1, 2013. Seven full-time Regional Coordinators will be hired to oversee all aspects of implementation including training, recruitment, technical assistance and coaching. These positions will be based in King County, Pierce County, Olympic Peninsula, Southwest WA, Central WA, Eastern WA and Northwest WA.

This expansion plan will enable us to:

- ▶ Meet RTT-ELC performance targets
- ▶ Serve high-need children statewide
- ▶ Ensure consistent and comprehensive delivery of quality improvement supports and resources
- ▶ Ensure capacity for assessment and evaluation using a locally/regionally centralized model.

### Phase One: July 1, 2012

Counties	Number of Programs
King	2,062
Pierce	596
Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap	231
Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania, Wahkiakum	350
Adams, Grant, Kittitas, Yakima	719
Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	414

### Phase Two: January 1, 2013

Counties	Number of Programs
Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston	383
Lewis, Pacific	70
Benton, Franklin	396

### Phase Three: July 1, 2013

Counties	Number of Programs
Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	1,045
Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan	306

Statewide view of the Early Achievers expansion plan

